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The
Enhanced Significance
of the
Presbyterian Foreign
Missions' Enterprise
in the Light of
the War

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THE ENHANCED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS' EN- TERPRISE IN THE LIGHT OF THE WAR

The World War directly affected eighteen of the twenty-seven missionary enterprises under the care of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, U. S. A. Japan, Siam, China and Guatemala were our Allies in the war. Africa, Chosen, India and Syria were directly affiliated with nations in the war, while Persia, one of the great mission fields of the Presbyterian Church, suffered enormous losses on account of the war. The destructive forces at work during the war period affected mission lands as well as all other lands. It will take a generation or more to recover the losses, material, moral and physical, caused by the war.

On the other hand, the war brought into special prominence the philanthropic, humanitarian and social aspects of the missionary enterprise. It placed foreign missions on the map of the politician, the statesman, the merchant in Occidental lands, and brought vividly to the attention of the rulers and common people of Oriental lands the work and the worth of the missionary.

The missionary, as a temporary government official, as an agent of the Red Cross, as a distributor of relief funds, as a translator and interpreter, and in many other capacities, was no inconsiderable asset. The Presbyterian missionary did his full bit.

The enhanced significance of the Presbyterian Foreign Missions' enterprise is seen in the light of the war.

I.

THE TWELVE YEAR OLD PROGRAM

The war has awakened in the Church at home a sense of responsibility that makes possible the carrying out of a twelve-year-old world-embracing program. At the request of the New Era Movement, the Board of Foreign Missions presented in July, 1919, a five-year program. The amount asked for at the end of the fifth year, 1924, was \$8,500,000. This program is almost identical, making allowances for the growth and membership of the Church, with that designed and presented by the far-visioned men of the Board of Foreign Missions in 1907. It is well to recall a bit of history. On July 18, 1906, the Presbyterian Foreign Board sent a questionnaire to all the missions under its care. Each mission was asked to state its distinct missionary responsibility. A year was consumed in receiving and tabulating the replies. In February, 1907, a remarkable conference was held at Omaha, Nebraska, known as the Omaha Conference. The addresses delivered at this Conference were embodied in a volume entitled—"Men and the Modern Missionary Enterprise."

This volume contains an address by Mr. David McConaughy, in which is the gist of the present stewardship campaign of the New Era Movement; also an address by the Rev. W. S. Marquis, D.D., on "Missionary Methods for Men in the Local Church"; suggestive of much which is now being presented as a part of the New Era Program; also a scholarly paper by Dr. T. H. P. Sailer on the "Need of Systematic Missionary Education." Mission study classes throughout the country to-day are

following almost literally the plans and methods presented by Dr. Sailer. Secretary Robert E. Speer delivered an address on the "Distinct Missionary Responsibility of the Presbyterian Church." This address was based on data gathered by the Board in the questionnaire. Mr. Speer stated that with a yearly contribution by the members at home of a minimum of \$6,000,000 the Church in a generation could hope to make Jesus Christ known to the people for whom the Presbyterian Church was responsible on the mission fields.

The Rev. Charles E. Bradt, D.D., whose active mind and tireless brain conceived and carried out the great Conference summed up the matter by declaring that "our present enterprise costs about \$1,200,000 a year. The membership in the Presbyterian Church is 1,200,000. If we could secure an average of five dollars per member we could in some measure meet our missionary responsibility."

The membership of the Presbyterian Church in the year 1919 is in round numbers, 1,600,000. Allowing for a reasonable increase in the next four years, an average gift of \$5 a member will not much exceed the ratio asked for in 1907.

The appeals of 1907 and 1919 are both based on definite data. In the light of the war the enhanced significance of the missionary enterprise makes it possible if not probable that this entire sum can be reached by 1924.

II.

STRATEGIC POSITIONS

The enhanced significance of the Presbyterian Foreign Missions enterprise is also seen in the strategic position occupied by the missions of the Board in the light of the war.

1. No one country is more discussed at the present moment than Mexico. It is at our doors, and it is at our doors better equipped from a mission point of view than ever before in the history of Protestant missions in Mexico. In 1914, there was held at Cincinnati, Ohio, a Conference of representatives of practically all the Mission Boards at work in Mexico. At this Conference a plan of co-operation looking for the reorganization of the work in that Republic, the diminishing of missionary competition, the occupation of the entire country, was adopted after careful and prayerful discussion. At a Conference held in the City of Mexico in February, 1919, the final adjustments of this plan were completed, so that practically, in its great broad outlines, the work in Mexico has been established on a great co-operative basis. The Presbyterian Church, North, has given up its work in the north at Aguascalientes, and Saltillo, San Luis Potosi and Monterey, and taken up new work in Vera Cruz, in Oaxaca, in Yucatan, Campeche and Tabasco. The new work in these countries has made rapid progress. The change effected by the Board, in the willingness to give up long established mission work and co-operate with other Boards, has opened up large vistas of opportunity in a country that is struggling for a new national life. The hope of the Mexican is in an intelligent constituency, educated along the line of Protestant Christianity.

The Union Seminary, in which the Northern, Southern and Associate Reformed Presbyterians, Northern and Southern Methodists, Northern Baptists, Congregationalists, Disciples and Friends are united, has now become a reality, and has already proved the wisdom of this splendid bit of co-operative missionary effort. The mission presses of the Methodist Church and of the Presbyterian North, have been united, and we

have now one great mission press. While some adjustments are yet to be made, still the plan so long contemplated is in actual operation. The weekly papers published respectively by the Methodist and Presbyterian Missions have been united in one weekly religious paper, thus meeting the needs of a large constituency, and promoting in a practical way the spirit of co-operation which found its expression in the Cincinnati Conference. The Mission has the good will of the Mexican people and the good will of the Government.

Little damage has been done to mission property during these years of revolution. While the condition of the country is still unsettled and there are many serious civil and social problems, yet the war has revealed the good will of the Government and of the people toward the Protestant missionary.

2. One of the large problems before the Peace Conference is what shall be done with the million square miles in Africa, formerly under the supervision of Germany, and now to be controlled by the Allies. It is well to remember that 200,000 square miles of this territory is in Cameroun, where are located the principal stations of the West Africa Mission.

The Mission in Cameroun is one of the most successful missions in connection with the work of the Board. The question regarding Cameroun and all the other territory wrested from the Germans in Africa is, whether Europe is to exploit these people and to seize the vast, untouched resources, or whether there is to be an enlightened development of the country. The era of exploration has passed, the era of partition has passed, will the new era be a reign of righteousness or of greed?

The Cameroun Mission is strategically located in the providence of God to aid in the proper answer to this question. In Cameroun there are 7 principal stations, 459 outstations, and a constituency of not less than 150,000. The zeal and earnestness of the missionary and the evangelistic spirit of the Christians, have won the favor of the French Government, now administering the Colony, and every indication points to a large development of this entire region now under the allied government. Strategy is the word which fittingly expresses the position of the Cameroun Mission.

3. Even more prominent and more strategic in the light of the war is the mission work in Chosen. Rev. Arthur Judson Brown, D.D., in his recent volume—"The Mastery of the Far East," states that Chosen is the pivot on which the Eastern question turns.

The population of Japan is increasing at the rate of 800,000 yearly. Her country is small. She must expand. Chosen is her natural outlet. Japanese statesmen believe that it is necessary that she should control Chosen.

Chosen at the present time is a storm centre. The relations of Japan to Chosen and China is agitating the entire world. Recall how providentially Chosen was opened. An offer of \$5,000 from a member of the Foreign Board was the immediate occasion of the beginning of mission work in Chosen. That is nearly a generation ago. Chosen was then the Hermit Nation. The war has brought Chosen to the attention of the civilized world. The noble moral struggle for independence—no armed force was used—made by the Koreans, has brought Chosen to the attention of all thoughtful men. In Chosen the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church has 8 stations,

1,200 outstations, 144 missionaries, 1,200 churches and groups, and a church membership of 53,000; and an attendance on the Lord's day of more than 100,000. The schools of the Mission are scattered all over the country. The hospitals for many years have been scenes of blessing for thousands of people. Whatever may be the right or wrong of the uprising of the Koreans against the government in Chosen, Chosen is no longer the Hermit Nation. She stands in the lime-light of the world, and it is most significant that one of the strongest missions of the Presbyterian Church is in a land that for months has been the subject of discussion among people throughout the entire world.

Chosen is not only strategic for Japan, it is strategic for the whole mission world.

4. The question of Chosen is closely bound up with the section of the League of Nations which deals with the Province of Shantung. This great province of the Republic of China is one of the strongholds of Presbyterian mission work. Here are nine mission stations, 500 outstations, 128 missionaries, nearly a thousand native teachers and workers; no less than fifteen high schools and 400 other schools, with one great Christian Union University whose influence has steadily increased until it is possibly the dominating Christian institution in all Shantung, if not in all China.

The scene of the dispute in the center of Shantung, is Kiaochow Bay, whose port is the City of Tsingtau. The Board has a station at Tsingtau. Much trouble has been experienced in the last year in connection with the work at this station. Native workers have been arrested, indignities have been inflicted on many of the members of the native church. The Mission compound has been surrounded by houses of ill fame.

It is stated in a Canton paper that the profits of the smuggling of opium into Tsingtau in 1918 amounted to more than \$10,000,000. . In an article published in "Asia" for September, 1919, facts and incidents are given showing that Tsingtau is certainly greatly needing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No question that opium and morphine and liquor are being allowed to enter into Tsingtau and Shantung. No one section in the Peace Treaty has been more discussed than the relation of Shantung to the world peace, and to the League of Nations.

The coolie in Shantung, the jinricksha man in Osaka, the Sikh in Lahore, the Arab in the desert—the statesmen in London, in Persia, in Washington, in Rome, in Berlin, in Tokyo—and thoughtful men throughout the world, are discussing the question whether Japan has a right to occupy Shantung, wrested from the Germans, the Germans having taken it from the Chinese without due process of law. . Shantung is one of the great assets of the Board, and in the light of the war the enhanced significance of the work in Shantung is very manifest.

5. Only a few weeks after Dewey had won the battle in Manila Bay, the pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Yonkers, N. Y., wrote the Board—"We have a thousand dollars to give you if you will enter the Philippine Islands." The first missionary who went out is there to-day doing magnificent service. This far-reaching possession of Uncle Sam, with its great Ellinwood Bible Training Station, its wonderful Silliman Institute, with its stations scattered throughout the Islands, working in the most splendid co-operation of any mission in the world, and its growing constituency, is a place of vantage in the best colonial ex-

periment the world has ever known, under the American flag. Strategic is the only word that will rightly express the place and position of our Philippine Mission.

In the brief period since the close of the Spanish war, the Philippine Mission has grown so that there are 11 stations, 173 outstations, 17,000 communicants, 10 hospitals, and an aggressive evangelistic work that bids fair to bring very large results in the near future. In view of America's responsibility to the whole eastern world, the position of the Philippine Mission under American control gives it a coign of vantage that rightly occupied will mean large things for the future.

The strategic positions of the Missions of the Board at the close of the war, shows the enhanced value of the Foreign Missions enterprise.

III.

MISSION MANDATORIES

The enhanced significance of the Presbyterian Foreign Missions enterprise in the light of the war is evident because of the mission mandates which in the providence of God the Church must assume. Thoughtful men are considering with much concern what nation will have the mandate for Constantinople, for Armenia, for Africa, for Syria. This is a matter of political concern, but there are mandates religious which the Presbyterian Church cannot escape.

A "mandatory" is "that which is of the nature of, pertaining to, or conveying a command, a mandate," and there are certain mission mandates which are laid upon the Presbyterian Church at the present hour.

1. The new work in Manchuria. Only a few years ago, Koreans, driven it may be by persecution, or listening to the call of the West, moved into Manchuria, thousands of them. Readers of mission literature will recall that John Ross, the pioneer missionary to Manchuria, found there a few Koreans when he was opening up the work for the Scotch Mission about 1872. This was the real beginning of mission work in Chosen. After the Japanese occupation, thousands of Christian Koreans migrated to Manchuria. They took the Gospel with them. The Korean Church sent its own evangelist to minister to the emigrants. By 1917 the Korean church in Manchuria, then only four years old, had a membership of 3,500—two-thirds of this number having been brought to Christ since migrating to Manchuria. At the town of Sin Chin Fu, on the main road between Mukden and Tunghua, is the center of the work.

This town has a population of from 15,000 to 20,000. No other denomination but our own is working there save the Scotch Church and the Danish Lutheran which is ministering to the Chinese. Thousands more of the Koreans will naturally migrate to Manchuria. It is the "Golden West" to the Korean, with vast undeveloped resources.

The Korean is readily accessible to the Gospel. The Korean Church because of the oppression to which it has been subjected on account of the independence movement, will not be able to carry on this new missionary enterprise as it has practically done the past four years. The Church in the home land must recognize this as a mandatory growing out of the war conditions which it is her duty and privilege to undertake.

2. In January, 1917, a group of missionaries and Siamese Christians started from Chieng Mai, Siam, to Yunnan, China. A new station was opened at Chieng Rung. Here are thousands of people without the Gospel, whose language is akin to that of the Laos in north Siam. On Sunday, January 19, 1919, a communion service was celebrated at Chieng Rung, the beginning of the fruitage of this large unevangelized territory extending from Indo-China and Yunnan to the Canton Mission in Kwangtung. It was "No Man's Land" until a little group of Presbyterian missionaries began their work in 1917.

On December 20, 1913, Rev. W. C. Dodd writes from Chieng Rung to a fellow missionary:—

"There are 8 cities or large towns where I think we should have Tai workers—Hanoi and Langson in Indo-China on the railway; Poseting on the south fork of the West River (Canton is on this river); Hsing-fu on the north fork of the West River; Lungchow, north of Langson; Shiping and Lingan-fu, about 200 miles northeast of Chieng-Rung; Nanning-fu, on the main branch of the West River. These, with Kwangnan-fu make nine places where we ought to be at work to-day. We hope that now the war is over France will lift the ban she has put on our working among the Tai of Indo-China, and that we may have the privilege of continuing the work of Drs. McGilvary and Peoples, begun twenty-two years ago in Luang Pra Bang."

If, as Dr. Dodd indicates, the French Government is willing to lift the ban she has so long placed on the work among the Tai of Indo-China, this large field, with that of Yunnan, opens an opportunity for the Board of Foreign Missions which is clearly mandatory.

3. In July, 1914, there was a conference held at Batanga, West Africa, attended by representatives of all the Protestant Mission Boards at work in Cameroun. A definite agreement was arrived at as to the country to be occupied in southern Cameroun by the Presbyterian Church, and in northern Cameroun by the Baptist, Basle and Gossner Missions. In August, 1914, war was declared. The Baptist, Basle and Gossner missions are no more. They will not be permitted for years to go on with their work. The French Evangelistic Society, although weakened by the war, will gladly co-operate with the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in this fruitful field. The French Society will furnish some valuable missionaries, but we must furnish the sinews of war and bear the brunt of the burden.

Here is a vast territory north and east of our present Mission with possibly 1,000,000 inhabitants, which we must enter or it will be neglected. Instead of ministering to 1,000,000 people as we do now in southern Cameroun, our definite responsibility will reach 2,000,000. The people are in a plastic state, they are ready to receive the Gospel. Our Swiss and German brethren carried on an excellent missionary enterprise. We will have to purchase their property, involving an expenditure of many thousands of dollars, and it will be necessary to open a main station at Yaounde, and possibly 8 or 9 outstations if the field is to be adequately occupied. It is probable that the French Government will have the mandatory for Cameroun. Our missionaries are working in most harmonious co-operation with the French missionaries. They have asked us to undertake this work. It belongs to us in the Providence of God. If the Presbyterian Church does not enter upon this work, it will prove itself recreant to a sacred trust.

4. The world is watching to see who will be mandatory for Syria. The National Bulletin, representing the Syrian National Society, pleads for "Syria for Syrians, under the guardianship of the United States." Whoever undertakes the mandatory for Syria, there can be no question that the Presbyterian Church has a mission mandatory in that land. In the light of the war, the self-sacrificing service rendered by the missionaries during the days of famine, of pestilence, of suffering and of sorrow, the large sums sent through the Board from Syrians in this country and distributed to starving Syrians in Syria, and the very efficient service rendered since the war by the missionaries in carrying out the plans of the "Near East Relief"—give the Presbyterian Mission a place of prominence in Syria that no other Board enjoys. But, in addition, there is a call to open a new mission at Aleppo. The world waited eagerly for the cavalry of Allenby to reach Aleppo. The mission world now calls on the Presbyterian Church to occupy this field. Here is a city with its adjacent territory of 250,000 inhabitants. It is situated at the junction of the Syrian railway and the Bagdad-Constantinople line, is most strategic, is the northern center of Arabic-speaking people, and is practically unoccupied. The Syria Mission at a meeting held in July, 1919, adopted the following resolution:—

"That the Mission lay before the Board the absolute necessity in loyalty to our Divine commission, of securing the prompt and effective occupation of Aleppo by some Society or combination of Societies. It rests upon our Mission as the leading organization in north Syria to take the initiative in this matter." This is mandatory.

Aleppo is north of our Syria Mission. It will connect us with the American Board

Mission in Asia Minor. It belongs to us. The enhancement of the Presbyterian Foreign Missions enterprise in the light of the war is nowhere more apparent than in Syria.

5. Afghanistan has long been a closed land to the missionary. The gateway to Afghanistan is Meshed. Twenty years ago the Rev. Lewis F. Esselstyn attempted to open a station at Meshed. He was driven out. In 1911 he returned and again essayed the task of occupying Meshed with the thought of reaching Afghanistan. He died in 1918 at Meshed, having ministered to thousands of famine-stricken Persians and preached the Gospel to many thousands of Moslems. He died a martyr, but he and other workers have made possible the opening of the road to Afghanistan.

The hospital at Meshed in 1917-18 did an extraordinary work. In this single year thousands of patients were treated who came from Herat, Baku, Bokhara, Tashkend, Kabul and Khandahar. The physician's lancet has opened the way into Afghanistan. Prejudices have been broken down, and superstition driven out by the unselfish, scientific, spiritual service rendered by the missionaries from far-away America, and by the generous gifts of Americans for the relief of famine-stricken Persians. There never was a clearer call or one more mandatory than that which comes from Meshed to the Presbyterian Church, to make a beginning towards reaching the 6,000,000 of people in Afghanistan. A road to India has been opened through Afghanistan by the British Government. A new Gospel road to Afghanistan has been opened through patients in the hospital who have learned something of the spirit of Christ, through his servants.

IV.

“CHRISTIANITY AND HUMAN CONSERVATION”

The enhanced significance of the missionary enterprise is seen in the new relation, shown in the light of the war, between Christianity and human conservation.

The missionary study topic for this year, which thousands will study, is “Christianity and Human Conservation.” Through the long years of the war, the missionaries of the Board in non-Christian lands have been making clear how close is that co-operation. The immediate physical relief which must be ministered in the course of the coming months by the missionary in such lands as Syria and Persia, following the splendid service during the years of the war, enhances the significance of the missionary enterprise.

In the report of the Near East Relief it is stated that in one fortnight in Aleppo, 4,000 refugees were repatriated, that in Beirut 26,000 garments a month were distributed in the villages, and in Tripoli, 11,000. But by whom was this distribution made? By the missionary.

In Aleppo alone there are 1,800 refugees, and the number of orphans, and children of our fellow Christians in Syria, the number of aged and infirm who must be cared for, are legion. The work of human conservation in Syria laid upon the Board of Foreign Missions involves not only enormous expenditures for immediate relief, but larger expenditure of conserving what is left, not only of things material, but of human life, so that Syria may become a strong nation.

Some idea of the vastness of the reconstruction needed can be seen from a single instance. In Urumia, Persia, practically everything connected with the Mission has been destroyed. The American School for Boys, the Fiske Seminary for Girls—that splendid institution which has done such valiant service for Persia—the 29 churches, the Westminster Hospital fragrant with the memory of Dr. Joseph P. Cochran, the great Urumia Press dating back to 1839, probably all of these splendid missionary landmarks are completely wiped out. The country has been tramped over by hostile armies, rent and torn, yet for a large section of Persia the only human conservation that the Persian can look to is to be found in the service of the members of the American Presbyterian Mission. It is estimated that we will need at least \$1,000,000 to reconstruct Persia, so that the work can be carried on as it was before the war.

It is suggestive that during the year ending June, 1919, at Meshed, Persia, only one case of smallpox was found. This was due to the wonderful vaccination system introduced by the Missionary to combat this and other diseases. By the aid of the missionary, laws were enacted forbidding the exposure of meat, authorizing the destruction of decayed fruit, disposing of garbage; and printed directions were distributed for fighting cholera, typhoid, and typhus fevers. "If," said the missionary at Meshed, "we had six doctors instead of one, we could reach and touch men in each of the ten great districts of Khorosans, in centers of from 50,000 to 250,000 each."

Unless the Presbyterian Church undertakes this work, it will not be done.

One of the large fruits of the war was the value of preventive medicine. During

the war period negotiations were completed with the Rockefeller Foundation, by which a great movement was inaugurated in China in the cause of preventive medicine. Under this arrangement the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions co-operated with the Rockefeller Foundation in the hospitals at Paotingfu, at Changteh, in the Union College at Tsinanfu, in the union hospital at Chefoo, and the great Peking University where is the largest medical institute in China.

This institution gives a four-year course in medicine, and a year of special work in the laboratory. It has a medical college for women, and a training school for nurses. A single gift of \$800,000 was made by the China Medical Board (the organization of the Rockefeller Foundation) for the purchase of land for this hospital. During the war years these plans were worked out, and are now in active operation.

During the war a government official in Siam was disturbed because his soldiers seemed so weak and unable to do effective service. He asked one of the missionary physicians to examine one hundred of the soldiers in the barracks at Nan. The examination showed 100 per cent of hookworm. To-day an extensive effort in co-operation with the Government is being carried on in Siam to drive out the hookworm.

In Africa the missionaries are asking for a \$50,000 hospital largely in order that they may have facilities for studying native diseases, and doing laboratory work that will result in the prevention of disease. The Board with its 175 hospitals and dispensaries has ample opportunity for this work of prevention.

Human conservation is also economic. In the University of Nanking, with which

the Board is affiliated, there is a College of Agriculture which provides a full five-year course in agriculture and forestry. The students in this University come from fourteen out of the eighteen provinces in China and the government has given efficient support to this institution. It is estimated that 85 per cent. of the population of China is agricultural. Millions of Chinese will be better fed, clothed and supported because of the work carried on by this and kindred institutions.

In India one of the missionaries of the Board served on a committee of the Government having special reference to the food supplies of the country and of the Indian army. One missionary of the Board invented a plow now in use in India, which because of its adaptiveness, its availability, the fact that it can be easily repaired, is helping to change the whole system of agriculture in India. The work done by the missionaries of the Board in furnishing increased supplies of food and in enlisting Government cooperation, is only the beginning of what promises to be a large work of human conservation in India.

The mass movement in India is turning thousands of the poorer classes to the Gospel. The missionary is providing an adequate means of support by which these people with their new ideas and new ideals can obtain sustenance and become citizens of the new India which is sure to be developed as one of the great results of the war.

The great work of human conservation, however, is what one of the missionaries from China designates as "The stiffening of the moral sense of the nation." This the missionary is doing throughout the Oriental world.

In China the fight for opium is not over. Enormous quantities of opium and morphia are being smuggled into China. In Syria the most distressing sight which the Secretary of the Board who visited Syria during the present year saw, was the profiteers who rode around in automobiles with a vulgar display of wealth made by holding grain from their fellow countrymen who were dying of famine. The saddest thing about the work in Persia was, not the famine stricken people who had to be fed, but the lack of gratitude and inhumanity of Kurds and Persians alike. The attempted kidnapping of a noble missionary woman and the death of a brave missionary who defended her, as told in the September number of "The Atlantic Monthly" (under the title of "And Can These Things Be?") is a story of which every lover of missions should be proud.

The work of human conservation is something more than furnishing food and raiment to starving Syrians or dying Persians or suffering Chinese or influenza infected Indians or persecuted Koreans, it is to bring home to men, weary and worn with oppression and poverty, the larger things of life which come through a right conception of God in Jesus Christ.

THE ENHANCED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS' ENTERPRISE IN THE LIGHT OF THE WAR, SHOULD SPUR US TO THE LARGEST ENDEAVOR IN THIS DAY OF GRACIOUS OPPORTUNITY.

Abram Woodruff Halsey.

